

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANGIE 00301 121703Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 ICAE-00 DLOS-09 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 EB-08 CG-00 DOTE-00
/058 W

-----033601 121708Z /53

O R 121727Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL TANGIER
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3988
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL SEVILLE IMMEDIATE
NAVAL STATION ROTA IMMEDIATE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON IMMEDIATE
COMSIXTHFLEET IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

UNCLAS TANGIER 0301

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN
SUBJ: MARITIME DISASTER, AMERICAN FLAG VESSEL YELLOWSTONE

1. AMERICAN FLAG VESSEL YELLOWSTONE, OWNED BY RIO GRANDE
TRANSPORT OF NEW YORK, WAS RAMMED AT 1150 ZULU JUNE 12 BY
ANOTHER VESSEL 14 MILES OFF EUROPE POINT, GIBRALTAR,
36.02 NORTH 05.10 WEST. SECOND VESSEL INVOLVED IN THE
DISASTER IS SAID TO BE AN ALGERIAN VESSEL CALLED IBN BATOUTA.
ACCORDING TO INFORMATION JUST RECEIVED FROM COMMANDER ROBERT
NEWTON, U.S. NAVAL LIAISON OFFICER, GIBRALTAR, THERE ARE
FIVE DEAD, THREE MISSING (PRESUMABLY TRAPPED IN THE ENGINE
ROOM) AND THREE SERIOUSLY INJURED. THE NATIONALITIES AND
IDENTITIES OF THE DEAD, INJURED AND MISSING ARE SO FAR UNKNOWN
EXCEPT THAT TWO OF THE INJURED WHO HAVE JUST ARRIVED AT
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GIBRALTAR ARE CANADIAN CITIZENS.

2. THE YELLOWSTONE WAS NEARLY SPLIT IN TWO BY THE COLLISION
AND SAID TO HAVE GONE DOWN TO ABOUT FOUR FEET BELOW NORMAL
LEVEL WHEN THE IBN BATOUTA BACKED OFF. AREA IS BLANKETED WITH
THICK FOG. FOUR BRITISH NAVAL VESSELS, THE FRIGATE AURORA,
DISTROYER NORFOLK, SUBMARINE FINWHALE, SUBMARINE OLN, PLUS

TWO NAVAL TUGS AND TWO CIVILIAN TUGS ALL FROM GIBRALTAR
ARE AT THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT ASSISTING WITH RESCUE OPERATIONS.
THE AURORA IS IN CHARGE. COMMANDER NEWTON BELIEVES ATTEMPT
WILL BE MADE TO BRING THE YELLOWSTONE INTO PORT THOUGH THE
SUCCESS OF SUCH AN EFFORT IS NOT CERTAIN. THE SHIP IS SAID
TO BE LOADED WITH GRAIN AND COMMANDER NEWTON NOT CERTAIN IF
SHIP WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO GIBRALTAR OR ALGECIRAS WHERE
BETTER GRAIN UNLOADING FACILITIES EXIST. YELLOWSTONE IS AN
11,000 GROSS TON BULK CARRIER. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE
REPORTED AS SOON AS KNOWN.EASTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TANGIE00301
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780245-0432
Format: TEL
From: TANGIER
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780668/aaaacgox.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bb3bd18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2383617
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARITIME DISASTER, AMERICAN FLAG VESSEL YELLOWSTONE
TAGS: CGEN
To: STATE LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bb3bd18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014